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EDITORIAL.

GEOLOGISTS who are interested in the more obscure problems of the physics of the earth will welcome with peculiar gratification the appearance of a monographic periodical devoted to one of the most neglected phases of the earth's phenomena, "TERRESTRIAL MAGNETISM, An International Quarterly Journal," published under the auspices of the Ryerson Physical Laboratory of The University of Chicago. The journal is edited by Dr. L. A. Bauer, with the coöperation of thirty-four eminent students of terrestrial magnetism, representing sixteen countries, among which the European states naturally predominate, but China, Java and Australia appear as representatives of the antipodes. The magazine will perform a valuable service in bringing together matter which is now so widely scattered as to be difficult of access even to specialists, and quite beyond the reach of most geologists. Without doubt it will also greatly promote the organization of the matter and the evolution of the science. Not a few geologists have looked with some measure of hope to terrestrial magnetism for a valuable contribution to the dark problems of the earth's interior. We have long felt that there should be discoverable some medium which could be operated upon by some inventible device in such a way as to serve as a stethoscope, so to speak, to declare the conditions and the changes in the heart of the earth. Magnetism is one of the suggested media, and, even if it shall not prove an agency of any great moment in itself, it may reveal conditions of the interior now quite hidden from us. The editorial greeting pertinently quotes Maxwell's eloquent words—referring to the sensitized sheet of the self-registering magnetograph—"On that paper, the never resting heart of the earth is now tracing in telegraphic symbols, which will one day be interpreted, a record of its pulsations and its flutterings, as well as of that slow but mighty working [the secular variation] which warns us that we must not suppose that the inner history of our planet is ended."

The first number of the journal contains several articles of weighty interest to geologists.

T. C. C.

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THE Geological Society of America held its eighth annual meeting in Philadelphia on the 26th, 27th and 28th of December, under the presidency of Professor N. S. Shaler. The attendance was large, embracing a considerable proportion of the geologists residing east of the Mississippi River. Professor Joseph Le Conte was elected president for the ensuing year, and Professors C. H. Hitchcock and Edward Orton, vice-presidents. The secretary, treasurer and editor, Messrs. Fairchild, White and Stanley-Brown, respectively, were reëlected. Professors W. K. Brooks, of Baltimore, and W. H. Norton, of Mount Vernon, Iowa, and Messrs. H. F. Bain, Des Moines, Iowa, C. R. Eastman, Cambridge, Mass., H. B. Kümmel, Trenton, N. J., F. B. Taylor, Fort Wayne, Ind., and J. B. Woodworth, Cambridge, Mass., were elected fellows of the society. On the evening of the 27th, Professor Scott, of Princeton, gave a public lecture on the Tertiary Lakes of the West. The presidential address of Professor Shaler on *The relations of geologic science to education*, was delivered on the morning of the 27th. Papers were presented in the regular sessions by the following members: J. F. Kemp, N. S. Shaler, W. M. Davis, L. V. Pirsson, F. P. Gulliver, M. R. Campbell, N. H. Darton, C. R. Van Hise, Robert Bell, Alfred C. Lane, Harry Fielding Reid, Frank Leverett, G. Frederick Wright, H. L. Fairchild and C. H. Hitchcock. Although other names appeared on the printed programme, their papers were not read Abstracts of some of these papers appear in this number of the JOURNAL. The papers covered a wide range of subjects. While many of them were of much interest, few of them provoked lengthy discussion, and none of them antagonistic criticism. The meeting added one to the list of pleasant and profitable sessions which the society has enjoyed.

R. D. S.

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It has been found necessary to postpone the articles of Dr. Van Hise, announced in our last issue, for one or two numbers. The continuation of the "*Glacial Studies in Greenland*" has also been postponed to make room for other matter.

A circular letter containing a slip for insertion in the last number of the JOURNAL, correcting our unfortunate error regarding Dr. Dawson, was mailed to all subscribers. If it has failed to reach any we will be glad to supply it on being informed of the fact.

C.